

History of the America's Cup

OLDEST TROPHY IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT

Regarded as the pinnacle of yacht racing, the world's best sailors, competing on the fastest boats, have contested the America's Cup since 1851. Only four nations have ever claimed the prestigious trophy affectionately known as the "Auld Mug"



America's Cup:
First awarded by Royal
Yacht Squadron in 1851

CREST OF A WAVE
Winning clubs since
first official race in 1870

-  **New York Yacht Club**
Record: 25-1
-  **Royal NZ Yacht Squadron**: 4-3
-  **San Diego Yacht Club**
3-1
-  **Société Nautique de Genève**: 2-1
-  **Golden Gate Yacht Club**
2-1
-  **Royal Perth Yacht Club**
1-3

Taihero AC75

20.7m,
Emirates Team
New Zealand (2024)

Source: America's Cup

1851 America Rules the Waves

Venue: Isle of Wight

Open race for **100 Guinea Cup. America** – most advanced yacht of her time, after which trophy is named – shatters British morale. **New York Yacht Club** (NYCC) announces it will accept challenge from yacht club of any foreign nation

John Cox Stevens Commodore of NYCC ▶

1870-87 Early Defences

New York

NYCC sees off variety of mainly British challengers during evolutionary phase in which size and type of boat varies greatly

1893-1903 90-Footers

New York

Largest and most impressive of all early America's Cup yachts. U.S. totally dominant, winning every race in five contests

1920-37 J-Class Boats

New York, Newport

Universal Rule introduced after Great War. Boats conform to formula involving sail length, area and displacement to reduce size and costs

1958 12-metre Era

Newport

To revive Cup after World War II, NYCC allows smaller, less expensive boats to compete

1983 Achilles Keel

Newport

After 132 years, longest winning streak in sporting history ends when **Alan Bond's Australia II** (right) wins sudden-death 7th race. **Louis Vuitton Cup** competition set up to select challenger.



1987 Conner's Revenge

Fremantle

Dennis Conner (left), beaten in 1983 and first U.S. skipper to lose Cup, wins it back from Australia at first attempt

1988 To Court

San Diego

Maverick challenge by vast monohull **New Zealand** beaten at sea by Conner's smaller, faster catamaran – and in law by **New York Supreme Court**, which rules mismatch is not illegal

1992 Class of '92

San Diego

New **International America's Cup Class** of ultralight yachts – established to define valid challenge in law – contest Cup. **America³** defeats Italian challenger **Il Moro di Venezia**

1995-2000 Kiwis Shine

San Diego

Team helmed by **Russell Coutts** (right) trounces Conner's **Young America** 5-0 in first victory for New Zealand. Defends title in 2000

2003 Swiss Glory

Auckland



Alinghi team of **Ernesto Bertarelli** (left), is first challenger to win trophy on initial attempt. Skipper **Coutts** hoists third successive title

2007 Spanish Armada

Valencia

Event returns to Europe, as Spain hosts Cup on behalf of landlocked Switzerland – **Alinghi** retains title

2010-13 Oracle Rises

Valencia, San Francisco

BMW Oracle Racing reclaims trophy for U.S. in 2010, then defends title in astonishing comeback from 8-1 down to seal 9-8 victory over **Emirates Team New Zealand** in closest match in America's Cup history

2017 Kiwis' Revenge

Bermuda



New Zealand – led by Olympic gold medallist **Peter Burling** (left) – vanquishes pain of 2013 to claim third title with emphatic 7-1 victory over Oracle

2021 Title Defence

Auckland

After overhauling four-minute deficit in eighth race, New Zealand surge to victory, defeating Italian team **Luna Rossa** 7-3

2024 37th America's Cup

Barcelona

Ineos Britannia, skippered by four-time Olympic champion **Sir Ben Ainslie**, take on New Zealand, who are aiming for fifth title



America

Length at water line:
27.39m, NYCC

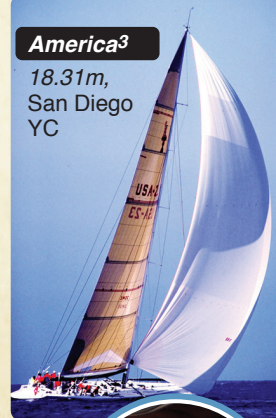


Reliance

27.32m, NYCC.
Largest sloop ever built,
designed by **Captain
Herreshoff**, wins
in 1903

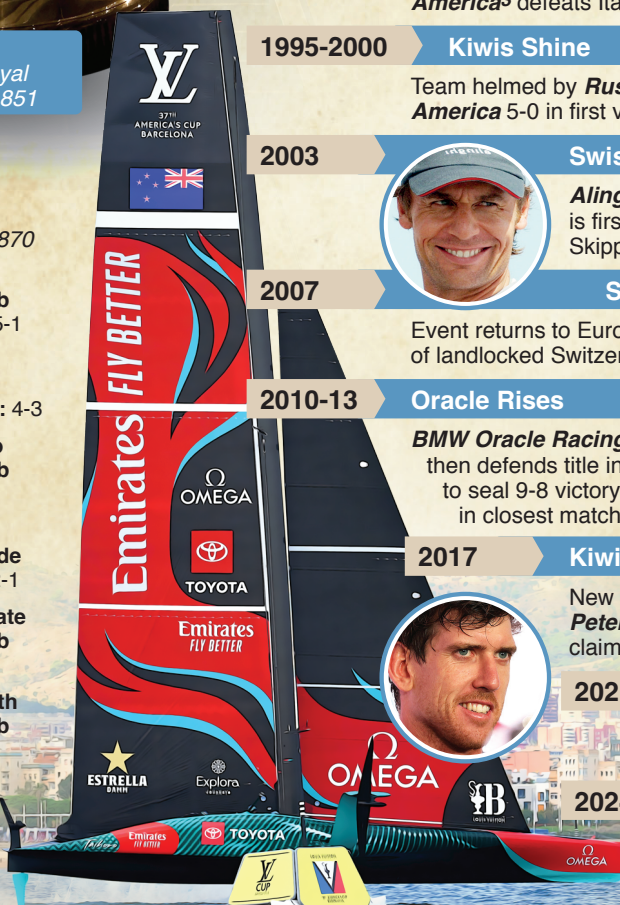
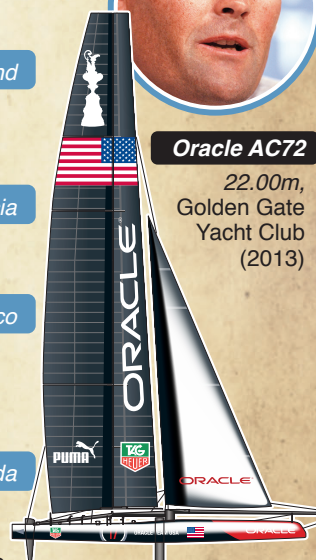
America³

18.31m,
San Diego
YC



Oracle AC72

22.00m,
Golden Gate
Yacht Club
(2013)



Pictures: Getty Images, Newscom, Wikimedia Commons

© GRAPHIC NEWS